(c) if so, what is the reliability of this refurbishing and upgrading plan to ensure that these missiles will continue to be efficient and effective operationally?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) Yes, Sir. Missiles have a fixed life which, depending on various parameters, is extended, from time to time, in consultation with Directorate General of Quality Assuarance.

(b) and (c) M/s Bharat Dynamic Limited (BDL) has been nominated by the Department of Defence Production and Supplies as the Nodal Agency to carry out life extension/refurbishment of missiles held by the Defence Forces, at a cost to be negotiated. It will be the contractual liability of BDL to ensure reliability of this refurbishment and upgradation.

Infiltration from Bangladesh

1564. SHRI R.K. ANAND: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to refer to the Statement given at Chandigarh on 27.9.2003 confirming infiltration from Bangladesh and state:

(a) whether Government have taken up the matter of infiltration with Bangladesh authorities to take effective measures to stop infiltration;

(b) whether Government have attributed this infiltration into India a total failure of paramilitary forces who indulge in malpractices which encourage them in their clandestine business without interruptions; and

(c) the Government's reaction thereto?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) The Government has been holding regular discussions at diplomatic and political level with the Government of Bangladesh for taking necessary steps to control all kinds of illegal cross border movement.

(b) No, Sir.

(c) Does not arise.

MIG Repairs

1565. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that poor quality of repairs and upgrades carried out by non-Russian Companies are the major causes for MIG crashes in the country:

(b) the details of companies from where parts for MIG aircraft are procured;

(c) the details of companies which have carried out the repairs for MIG during the last five years; and

(d) the steps that the Ministry is taking to reduce the MIG crashes?

THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE (SHRI GEORGE FERNANDES): (a) No, Sir.

(b) The majority of aircraft spares are manufactured in various divisions of HAL within the country. The Russian and Ukrainian Government authorized agencies/aircraft manufacturers are also contracted for supply of aircraft parts.

(c) M/s HAL including its Joint Ventures and its subsidiaries M/s Rosoboronexport and RAC MIG of Russia, M/s Aerostar of Romania and M/s Spetstechnoexport of Ukrain have carried out repair of MIG series of aircraft and/or their engines.

(d) Every effort is taken to reduce accidents and improve flight safety. This is an ongoing process. Measures to enhance quality of training to improve the skill levels, ability to exercise sound judgement and situational awareness of pilots are being pursued. Constant interaction with HAL is being maintained with a view to reduce accidents. DRDO and other technical agenices are also being involved in all accident investigations to form a wider perspective to prevent accidents. Measures to reduce accidents on account of bird menace are also being implemented.

Recruitment of Kashmiri Pandit Youth

1566. DR. ALLADI P. RAJKUMAR: Will the Minister of DEFENCE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to conduct a special drive for recruitment of Kashmiri Pandit Youth in order to eradicate unemployment within this minority community; and

(b) when this drive is likely to commence and the number of Youth to be recruited in the Armed Forces?